**Medical vs ‘Street’ Marijuana.**

Medical Marijuana is different to Street Marijuana. The concentration of THC, (delta 9 – tetrahydrocannibinol) is significantly higher in the street drug, as the plants are often bred with this in mind. Street Marijuana is often treated with other chemicals also, to increase or add to the ‘high’ experienced by users.

Medical Marijuana contains higher concentrations of other cannabinols, CBN, CBC, CBG, and can be selectively bred to increase any or all of these aspects of the plant to treat certain diseases or effects. As the different compounds in marijuana have different properties, preparations, tinctures and applications can be distilled for different purposes.

Medical marijuana is currently regularly prescribed for,

* Muscle spasms caused by multiple sclerosis
* Nausea from cancer chemotherapy
* Poor appetite and weight loss caused by chronic illness, such as [HIV](http://www.webmd.com/hiv-aids/default.htm), or nerve pain
* Seizure disorders - epilepsy
* Crohn's disease
* Glaucoma
* Chronic Pain conditions

Its major side effects include,

* Dizziness
* Drowsiness
* Short-term memory loss
* Euphoria

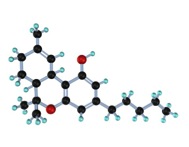
Fears and links to existing conditions.

* A *tenuous* link to the exacerbation of mental disorders such as schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder.
* Excessive use can exacerbate depression and depressive disorders
* Causes and initial rise in blood pressure, possibly raising the incidence rate of heart attack or stroke.
* Most common form of injuries or illnesses linked to cannabis use are motor related accidents, lung cancer (though smoking) and injury via misadventure (injury while ‘high').
* It’s a gateway drug and leads to more dangerous drug use.
* It makes people paranoid

**Active ingredients in *Medical Marijuana.***

***THC, CBC, CBN, CBG, CBD***

**What THC Is and Its Effects**



THC stands for delta-9-tetrahydrocannibinol. It is probably the best known cannabinoid present in medical marijuana. Physically it acts as a muscle relaxant and anti-inflammatory and psychologically it acts as a stimulant. This makes [medical marijuana strains](http://www.unitedpatientsgroup.com/blog/2012/06/08/finding-the-best-medical-marijuana-strain/) high in THC a good choice for patients who need relief while also to remain alert and active.

THC in medical marijuana acts in the following ways:

* anti-epileptic
* anti-inflammatory
* [anti-depressant](http://www.unitedpatientsgroup.com/PatientsRoom-Depression)
* [stimulates appetite](http://www.unitedpatientsgroup.com/PatientsRoom-Appetite-Stimulation)
* [lowers blood pressure](http://www.unitedpatientsgroup.com/PatientsRoom-Anxiety)

**What CBD Is and Its Effects**

CBD stands for cannabidiol. Cannabidiol actually reduces the psychological effects of medical marijuana. For most patients, a strain that has high THC and high cannabidiol will have fewer “mental” effects and more physical ones. High cannabidiol medical marijuana strains, like Blueberry and Harlequin, are especially effective for illnesses with strong physical symptoms.

Cannabidiol’s effects include:

* [reduced pain](http://www.unitedpatientsgroup.com/PatientsRoom-analgesic)
* [reduced anxiety](http://www.unitedpatientsgroup.com/PatientsRoom-Anxiety)
* [reduced nausea](http://www.unitedpatientsgroup.com/PatientsRoom-Nausea-Vomiting)
* sedative effects
* anti-convulsive
* anti-schizophrenic

**What CBN Is and Its Effects**

CBN is cannabinol, not to be confused with Cannabidiol. Cannabinol is very similar to THC, but has less psychological effects. It is produced as THC breaks down within the medical marijuana plant. High THC will make cannabinol’s effects stronger, and very high cannabinol concentrations can produce undesirably strong head highs. Cannabinol levels tend to be high in medical marijuana strains like Strawberry Haze and Blue Rhino, which can be particularly helpful for:

* lowering pressure in the eye (such as with [glaucoma](http://www.unitedpatientsgroup.com/PatientsRoom-glaucoma))
* [analgesic](http://www.unitedpatientsgroup.com/PatientsRoom-analgesic)
* anti-seizure

**What CBC Is and Its Effects**

CBC stands for cannabichromene. Cannabichromene’s main action is to enhance the effects of THC. High cannabichromene levels will make a high-THC medical marijuana strain much more potent. Cannabichromene working together with THC is known to be a:

* sedative
* [analgesic](http://www.unitedpatientsgroup.com/PatientsRoom-analgesic)
* anti-inflammatory

**What CBG Is and Its Effects**

CBG is an abbreviation for cannabigerol. Cannabigerol has no psychological effects on its own, and is not usually found in high amounts in most medical marijuana. Scientists believe that cannabigerol is actually one of the oldest forms of cannabinoids, meaning it is essentially a “parent” to the other cannabinoids found in medical marijuana. It also has anti-microbial properties. Cannabigerol has physical effects such as:

* [lowering pressure in the eye](http://www.unitedpatientsgroup.com/PatientsRoom-glaucoma)
* anti-inflammatory
* sedative
* [sleep assistance](http://www.unitedpatientsgroup.com/PatientsRoom-Anxiety-Documents)

**Combining Strains**

Alone, none of the five major [cannabinoids](http://www.unitedpatientsgroup.com/blog/2012/06/11/cannabis-cannabinoids-how-medical-marijuana-helps/) are as effective as when they work together. These five cannabinoids also work with the minor compounds in marijuana, and this is probably one reason that medical marijuana replacements like Marinol do not work very well.

Professional medical marijuana growers can analyze their medical marijuana strains to breed and grow medication for patients with the desired range of levels of each major cannabinoid. Using this knowledge of what each compound does helps medical marijuana pharmacists, or budtenders, find the right combination for patients to treat specific conditions and find maximum relief.